

## CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method, comprising:  
  
accessing one or more terms associated with one or more nodes of a network;  
  
encrypting the accessed one or more terms;  
  
receiving an encrypted search term from a user;  
  
comparing the received encrypted search term with at least a portion of the  
encrypted accessed terms; and  
  
providing a result of the comparison to the user.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein encrypting comprises  
encrypting the accessed one or more terms using a same encryption algorithm as that  
employed to encrypt the search term.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein encrypting comprises  
encrypting the accessed terms using at least one of a one-way hash function and an  
asymmetric encryption algorithm.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises accessing  
the one or more terms contained in one or more hypertext markup files stored in one or  
more workstations coupled to the network.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprises storing the encrypted  
accessed terms in a database and wherein comparing comprises comparing the received  
encrypted search term with at least a portion of the encrypted accessed terms stored in the  
database.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the result comprises providing at least a portion of the accessed terms that substantially match the search term.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the accessed terms in a first database and storing the encrypted accessed terms in a second database, and further comprising providing the user an option to search the first database or the second database.

8. (Original) An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions that when executed enable a processor to:

access one or more terms associated with one or more remote files over a  
network;

encrypt the accessed one or more terms;

receive an encrypted search term from a user;

compare the received encrypted search term with the encrypted accessed terms;

and

provide a result of the comparison to the user.

9. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the network is the Internet, and wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to encrypt the accessed terms using a same algorithm utilized to encrypt the search term.

10. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to encrypt the accessed terms using at least one of a one-way hash function and an asymmetric algorithm.

11. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to store the encrypted accessed terms in a database and to compare the received encrypted search term with at least a portion of the encrypted accessed terms stored in the database.

12. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to access one or more websites associated with one or more processor-based systems that are communicatively coupled to the Internet and to provide the results of at least a portion of the accessed terms that match the search term.

13. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to store the accessed terms in a first database, store the encrypted accessed terms in a second database, and provide the user an option to search the first database or the second database.

14. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to access one or more terms associated with one or more remote hypertext markup language files over a network.

15. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage unit; and

a control unit communicatively coupled to the storage unit, the control unit adapted to:

access one or more terms associated with one or more remote files over a network;

store the accessed one or more terms in the storage unit;

encrypt the stored one or more terms;

receive an encrypted search term from a user;  
compare the received encrypted search term with the encrypted accessed  
terms; and  
provide a result of the comparison over the network.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the control unit is adapted to encrypt the accessed one or more terms using a same encryption algorithm as that employed to encrypt the search term.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the control unit is adapted to encrypt the accessed terms using at least one of a one-way hash function and an asymmetric encryption algorithm.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the control unit is adapted to access the one or more terms contained in one or more hypertext markup files stored in one or more workstations coupled to the network.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the control unit is further adapted to store the encrypted accessed terms in a database and to compare the received encrypted search term with at least a portion of the encrypted accessed terms stored in the database.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the control unit is adapted to provide the result that includes at least a portion of the accessed terms that substantially match the search term, and wherein the control unit is further adapted to store the accessed terms in a first database, store the encrypted accessed terms in a second database, and provide the user an option to search the first database or the second database.